Welcome to the Gallery Mint Museum

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The Gallery Mint Museum Mission

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Register to win a "Strawberry Leaf" Wreath Cent reproduction as rare as the real thing.

We couldn't explore the 1793 Wreath Cent history and reproduction without tapping into the mystery of the very rare variety known as the 'strawberry leaf" of which only four are known to exist. No one seems to know much about it: why it was made, why only four survived, or what happened to give it such short life. But, while we can't answer these questions, we can reproduce it! We'll give away four of these rarities-- reproductions of course, -- to four lucky winners!

Here's how to enter!

Send us a postcard with your name and address clearly printed. Send your entry to

Strawberry Leaf Contest
Gallery Mint Museum
P.O. Box 706
Eureka Springs, AR
72632

The drawing will be held February 1, 1996. No purchase necessary to enter. One entry per customer, please.

1793 Chain Cent
-- Sold Out! --

Reproductions of the the 1793 Chain Cent are officially sold out. Orders postmarked by September 30, 1995 were honored. The final mintage, dated October 16, 1995, was 4,000. The dies have been cancelled.

Also sold out are the 1793 Wreath Cent proofs.

Reproduction Medals are a learning experience

The first in the Gallery Mint Museum's early American coin reproductions, the 1794 Flowing Hair Dollar first offered in January 1995, served as a valuable learning ground for GMM's early American and Colonial reproductions.

There are still pieces left to be minted in the 1,758 total mintage planned -- the same number minted originally back in 1794.

While the obverse and reverse designs of the piece are authentically reproduced, there were slight changes made.

When we first decided to do this piece, our intention was a bicentennial medal, not an exact reproduction. We thought that if we changed certain aspects of the piece -- alloy, weight, edge inscription, doubled date and signature on the reverse-- that we could eliminate the need for the "COPY" stamp.

However, these changes were not enough to comply with the Hobby Protection Act.

The law is specific, the English word "COPY" must be incused in sans serif letters that measure at least 2mm tall and 6mm wide. The word must be placed on either the obverse or the reverse and can not be placed on the edge. We have no desire to challenge these laws which are in place for good reason.

Now that we know this, and know the enthusiastic interest in early American reproductions, our future reproductions will be copied more exactly to the original. The exception being the inclusion of a small mint mark in the shape of a screw press on the edge, and of course the mandatory "COPY" stamp.

Large Cents

The first of our large cent reproductions was the 1793 Chain Cent, designed by Henry Voigt at the first Philadelphia Mint in 1793.

We duplicated this piece using the same engraving techniques and equipment that were used to produce the originals over two hundred years ago. The dies and punches used were executed by Ron Landis.

Trial and error haunted the reproduction of the piece as much as it did 200 years ago. Delays in working the copper, the punches and the dies offered a tremendous hands-on learning experience -- if not an often frustrating one.

The work on the Chain Cent, however, has led to a smooth production of the 1793 Wreath Cent, now being minted through January 30, 1996.

Every day at the Gallery Mint Museum is a learning experience, an opportunity to discover how the process *might* have occurred 200 years ago. We hope that instead of viewing these as flaws, you will recognize the learning curve of early reproduction work.

Only by getting our hands dirty and working with it -- a life long study-- can we uncover the "mysteries" of the first minting experiences.

As we copy the techniques exactly and use the same materials and equipment, with the exception of slight differences in the engraving, we will come up with the same results as did our ancestor peers. When the variables change, so do the final results. GMM